

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Ashland Daily Independent, Nov. 17, 2010]

CHARLES WHEELER: HE WAS A LEADER IN BUSINESS, POLITICS AND EDUCATION IN AREA

ASHLAND.—Charles Dona Wheeler spent most of his adult life as a business, political and education leader in this region. He died quietly at his residence on Veterans Day. He was 81.

As a business leader, he owned and operated Wheeler-Williams Hardware in Boyd County from 1962 until he closed the business in 2000. He also was a developer of Southern Hills Estates, a beautiful, upscale subdivision off Boy Scout Road.

Wheeler's political career began early in life when he was elected to the Ashland Board of City Commissioners at the age of 28. He went on to serve for eight years—or four terms—as the representative from the 100th District in Kentucky. After leaving office, he remained a leader of the Republican Party in Boyd County and in Kentucky for many years.

Although he never earned a college degree, Wheeler helped open the doors to a college education for thousands of young people in this region by serving on the Morehead State University Board of Regents. His decade of service on the MSU governing body during a time of great growth for the university continues to benefit this region by the many students the university has helped train who continue to play important roles in this area's business, educational, cultural and social life.

To his wife of 60 years, Mary Kathryn Wheeler, and his large extended family, Charles Wheeler was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and uncle. To others in this community, Charles Wheeler was a leader who made a difference through his many years of quietly working for the betterment of this community and this region.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Alzheimer's is a devastating disease that takes a tremendous personal and economic toll on both the individual and the family. Today, an estimated 5.3 million Americans—including more than 25,000 Mainers—are living with Alzheimer's disease, more than double the number in 1980. If nothing is done to change the current trajectory, 13.5 million Americans over the age of 65 will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050.

In addition to the suffering it causes, Alzheimer's costs the United States \$172 billion a year, primarily in nursing home and other long-term care costs. This figure will only increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages. If nothing is done to slow or stop the disease, Alzheimer's will cost the United States \$20 trillion over the next 40 years.

At a time of mounting deficits, the increasing number of Alzheimer's cases has dire implications for our Federal budget as well. The average annual Medicare payment for an individual with Alzheimer's is three times higher than for those without the condition. For Medicaid, average payments are

nine times higher. Failure to achieve progress in the fight against the disease will result in Alzheimer's costs to Medicare skyrocketing more than 600 percent and costs to Medicaid growing more than 400 percent by 2050.

Despite these alarming projections, to date there is no national strategy to defeat Alzheimer's, and our efforts to combat the disease have lacked coordination and focus. That is why I am so pleased that the Senate last night passed the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which I introduced with Senator BAYH, to create a coordinated strategic national plan for combating Alzheimer's disease.

The National Alzheimer's Project Act, which is based on a key recommendation of the nonpartisan Alzheimer's Study Group led by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, will launch a campaign within the Federal Government to overcome Alzheimer's disease. First, it directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to create a coordinated National Alzheimer's Disease Plan to combat Alzheimer's disease. This plan will be updated annually and a report will be submitted to Congress assessing the Nation's progress in preparing for the growing burden of Alzheimer's disease.

The legislation also establishes an Interagency Advisory Council to advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the plan, which is also to include implementation steps and recommendations for priority actions. The advisory council is also charged with coordinating all Federal efforts on Alzheimer's research, care, institutional services, and home and community-based programs.

Funding for these activities will come from existing funding appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services. No new funding is authorized. The coordinated effort called for in the legislation will simply ensure that our existing resources are maximized and leveraged to combat Alzheimer's disease.

Our legislation has broad, bipartisan support. It was passed out of the Senate HELP Committee unanimously, and it has now been approved unanimously by the full Senate, clearing it for action by the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR LANCE BURNETT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize MAJ Lance Burnett's service to his country and as an Air Force fellow on my staff. Major Burnett joined my office through the Congressional Fellows Program. Over the past year, he has been an invaluable addition to my staff. He has demonstrated an expertise with military policy issues and built close relationships both within the office and on Capitol Hill.

As a member of my staff, Major Burnett has been closely involved in a number of policy areas. He has assisted with the defense appropriations process, liaised with the Veterans Affairs Committee, and coordinated congressional delegations. He has served as an adviser on issues relating to the armed services to me and my staff, adding invaluable perspective. He has exemplified the Air Force values of "Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do" through his work. The Air Force has recognized his service through his selection for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel on August 26, 2010.

Major Burnett hails from Cameron, TX. He received his bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M University and his commission from the Air Force Officer and Training School. Since earning his flight wings in 1998, Major Burnett has become a senior navigator, completing over 2,800 flight hours of which 613 hours of them in combat.

Major Burnett has served as an instructor and evaluator navigator in both the Air Mobility Command and the Air Force Special Operations Command, flying support missions for Operations Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Joint Endeavor, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, as well as numerous counternarcotics missions in South America.

Prior to being accepted into the Congressional Fellows Program, Major Burnett was the MC-130E/H standardization and evaluation branch chief at Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command where he was responsible for all 30 MC-130E Combat Talon and MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft in the USAF inventory and their associated 390 aircrew members. He has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Combat Action Medal, and the 2006 General P.K. Carlton Award for Valor. Major Burnett and his wife Andrea have two children, Peyton and Andrew.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Major Burnett's tremendous public service and recognize his work on behalf of Pennsylvanians.

TAKE A VETERAN TO SCHOOL

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to express my profound appreciation for the Take a Veteran to School Day program in my home State of Maine with ceremonies that took place on November 9 and 10 of this year, appropriately right before Veterans Day on November 11. And it is especially fitting that we recognize these events this week as we paused this past Tuesday, on December 7, to remember those who perished 69 years ago at Pearl Harbor, a day that President Franklin Roosevelt declared "will live in infamy."

First and foremost, I want to extend my enormous gratitude to the Maine